

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier University



Olympian Catriona Le May Doan to speak at Outstanding Women of Laurier event

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**Contact: Peter Baxter
Director, Athletics & Recreation
Wilfrid Laurier University
(519) 884-0710 ext 2216**

**Kevin Crowley
Associate Director,
News and Editorial Services
(519) 884-0710 ext 3070**

WATERLOO — Catriona Le May Doan, two-time Olympic gold medalist in speed skating, will deliver the keynote address at the third annual Outstanding Women of Laurier luncheon. Designed to recognize the significant contributions of female athletes to our community, the reception, luncheon and award presentation will begin at 11 a.m., Thursday, April 3, at the Waterloo Inn & Conference Centre.

A highlight of the luncheon will be the presentation of the Outstanding Women of Laurier Award to the student-athlete selected from three finalists. The award recognizes a female Laurier student who combines athletic and academic achievement with an active commitment to leadership and the development of young athletes through community teaching or coaching.

“We are thrilled to have someone of Ms. Le May Doan’s calibre give the keynote address,” said Peter Baxter, director of athletics and recreation at Laurier. “In addition to being a world-class athlete, Ms. Le May Doan is an articulate and engaging motivational speaker. She really inspires people to achieve their personal best.”

Le May Doan has participated in four Olympics, winning two gold medals and a bronze medal in speed skating. She remained undefeated throughout the 2002 season and was the world record holder in the 500-metre event. She has broken the world record eight times. Le May Doan’s accomplishments earned her the 2002 Lou Marsh Award as Canada’s Athlete of the Year and she is a three-time recipient of the Canadian Female Athlete of the Year award. Le May Doan was inducted into Canada’s Sports Hall of Fame in 2005, the same year she was appointed to the Order of Canada.

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In addition to being a world champion athlete, Le May Doan is a talented motivational speaker and media analyst for CBC.

The Outstanding Women of Laurier luncheon will be hosted by Helen Stoumbos, the producer, writer and host of *Direct Kicks: the Soccer Show*, and the first Canadian ever to score a World Cup soccer goal. A world-class athlete, Stoumbos played soccer for Laurier and graduated in 1993. She went on to star for the Canadian national women's soccer team from 1992 to 2000, representing the country at the 1995 FIFA Women's World Cup in Sweden. After hanging up her cleats, she launched *Direct Kicks* and provided colour commentary and analysis for Rogers Sportsnet and CBC's women's soccer coverage. She has also written, produced and hosted the shows *Slapstick*, *Direct Kicks for Chicks* and *Sportstrek*, a youth sport series. In 2003, Stoumbos co-authored the book *Women's Soccer: The Passionate Game*, published by Greystone Books.

For more information on The Outstanding Women of Laurier luncheon, or to purchase tickets online, please visit www.laurierathletics.com/owl.